

MARVEL

1

JOHNSON
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THE INFERNAL MULLK



PARENTAL
ADVISORY

BRILLIANT PHYSICIST DR. BRUCE BANNER AND HIS GAMMA-FUELED ALTER EGO THE INCREDIBLE HULK HAVE BEEN GRUESOMELY RIPPED APART. HULK'S BODY IS NOW THE VESSEL OF ELDEST, IMBUED WITH THE CORRUPTIVE POWER OF THE GREAT OLD ONES. THE MARVEL UNIVERSE MUST NOW CONTEND WITH ONE OF THE MOST TERRIFYING THREATS IT HAS EVER FACED...

THE INFERNAL HULK



“RISE”

FOR AEONS UNTOLD, THE MOTHER OF HORRORS WAS IMPRISONED IN A POCKET DIMENSION, LOCKED BEHIND A GATE NONE BUT THE ONE BELOW ALL COULD OPEN. USING HULK AS THEIR VESSEL, THE BEING KNOWN AS ELDEST FINALLY OPENED HER MOTHER'S PRISON...BUT FOUND HER WITHERED, MINDLESS AND BROKEN. ELDEST CONSUMED THEIR MOTHER'S FLESH, IMBUING HULK'S BODY WITH THE PRIMORDIAL SEED OF CORRUPTION THAT ONCE CREATED THE GREAT OLD ONES. AS THE INFERNAL HULK RISES, A NEW AGE OF EARTH BEGINS: THE AGE OF MONSTERS.

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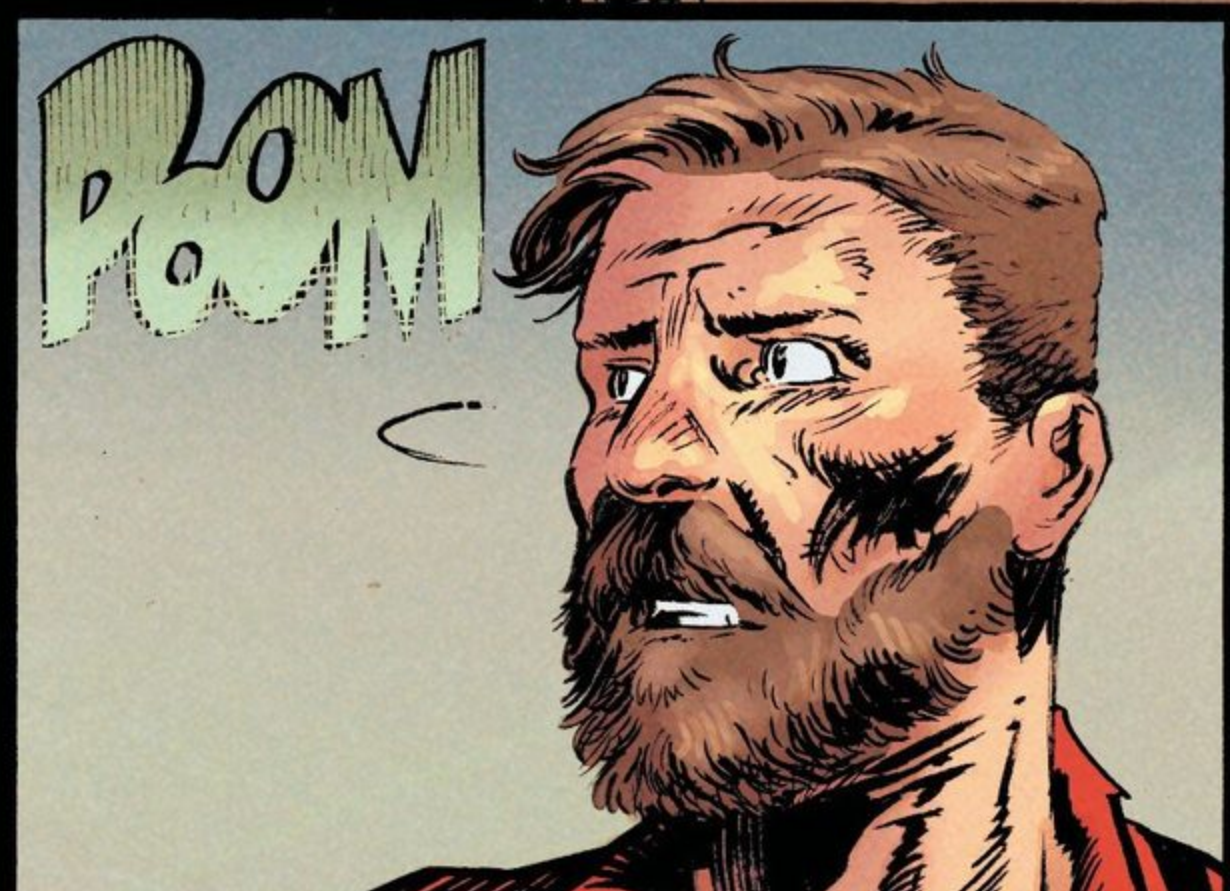
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HULK **CREATED BY** STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

RED CREEK,
KENTUCKY.







NOW.

THREE
CLICKS!

IT
AIN'T REALLY
HIM.



HE'S
COMING UP
ON BRAVO
TEAM!

I SAW
HIM ON TV WITH
THE AVENGERS
ONCE. HE LOOKED
KINDA SCARY,
BUT...



...HE'S
A GOOD
GUY.

BOOM



STILL
MOVING! TWO
CLICKS AND
CLOSING!

THIS IS THAT
MYSTERY-O GUY OR
SOMETHIN'. THE *REAL*
GUY'S GONNA SHOW UP
IN THE NICK O' TIME
AND SAVE US.

YOU'LL
SEE.

PING



LAST
BUS JUST
CLEARED THE
LINE! TOWN'S
EMPTY!

'CEPT
FOR US.



WE'RE GIVING
THE TOWN TIME TO
GET CLEAR, KID. THAT'S
THE JOB, AND WE'RE
DOING IT. GOOD?

YESSIR,
MISTER
BRIDGER.



HOLY CRAP. YOU'RE **DAVID
BRIDGER**? CAPTAIN DAVIS
SAID YOU WERE A LEGIT
WAR HERO IN
YOUR DAY.

THAT'S
NOT HOW I
REMEMBER IT.



WELL,
HE SAID YOU
WERE A CRAZY
GOOD SHOT,
AT LEAST.

AND THAT
YOU KILLED AN
ASSLOAD
OF PEOPLE.



THAT'S THE
OPPOSITE OF
A HERO, KID.



THOUSAND METERS!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

DORSEY, SIR.



I CAN SEE YOUR NAME TAPE. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

OH. UM... TRAVIS.

TRAVIS, NOBODY IN COMBAT'S A HERO. EVERYONE'S JUST TRYING NOT TO GET KILLED.

THE GOOD ONES HELP THEIR BUDDIES NOT GET KILLED.



I KNOW IT'S SCARY AS HELL, TRAVIS. BUT I'M GONNA LOOK OUT FOR YOU. OKAY?

Y-YES, SIR.

INCOMING!



OH GOD. I--I CAN SEE HIM.

THE REAL ONE'S GONNA SAVE US. YOU'LL SEE.



IT'S GONNA BE O--





D-DR.
BRUCE
BANNER!

BY THE
AUTHORITY
OF THE
DEPARTMENT
OF DEFENSE,
WE'RE--

POOM



...W-WE'RE
AUTHORIZED
TO...

POOM



THERE
IS NO
"BANNER"
HERE.

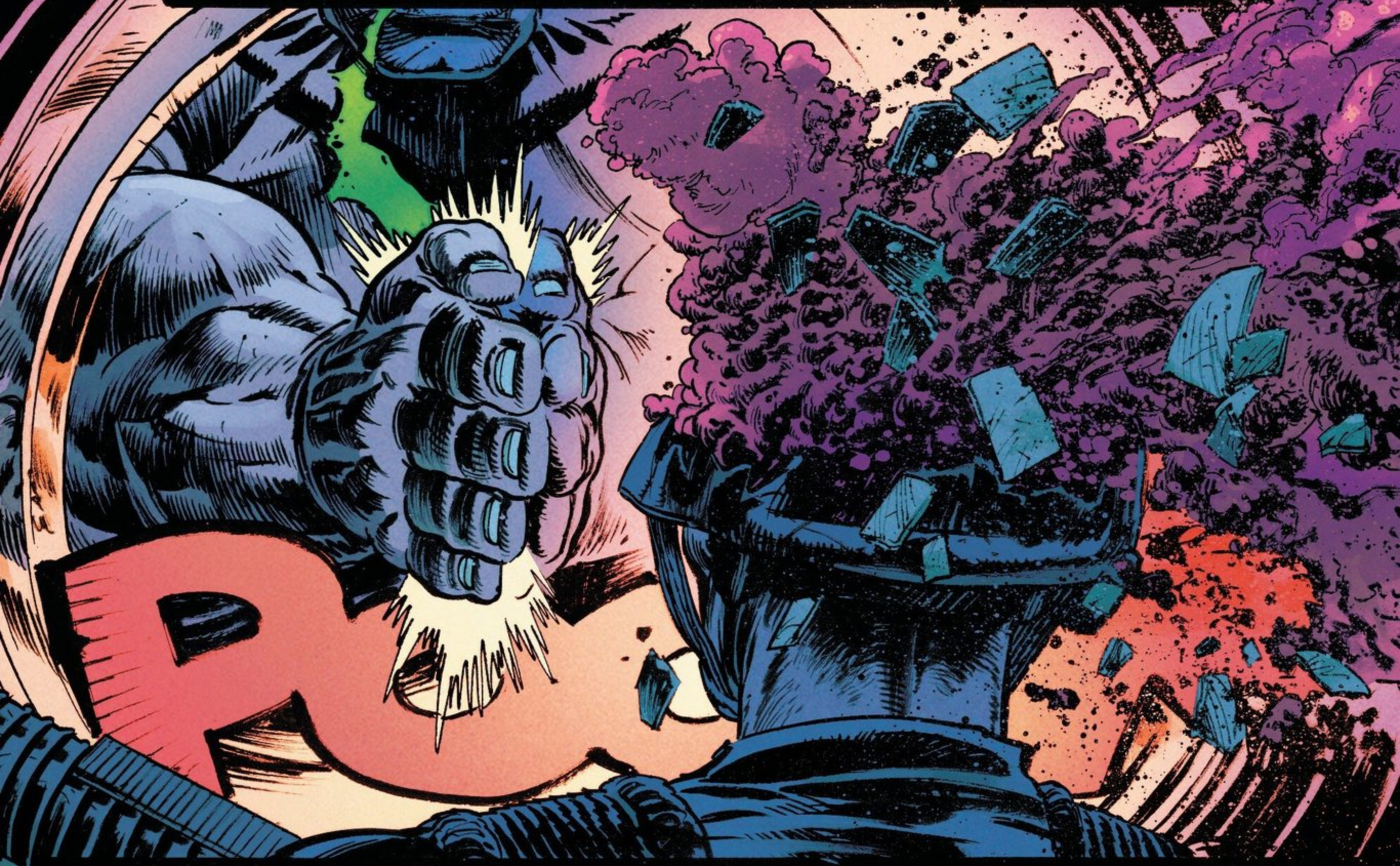


WH-WHAT...

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?



FROM
YOU?



FWUMP



NOTHING.















HA!
VERY WELL.



JUST
YOU,
THEN.



ONCE I
SUMMONED
YOU TO THE
BRIGHT
TOWERS OF
NINEVEH.

I NOW
RAISE YOU
FROM THE
MOUNTAIN
TOMB OF
UDRU.



I SUMMON
THE LIVING CITY OF
GOLOGOLTHIA.



THE MOTHER
OF HORRORS IS
DEAD. HER ELDEST
LIVES.

OBEY
ME.



HOURS LATER.







BRIDGER.



COME DOWN.



YOU SAID
YOU'D LOOK
OUT FOR US,
BRIDGER.

REMEMBER?



YOU
PROMISED.







CONFLICTING
REPORTS OUT
OF KENTUCKY
THIS MORNING
AS AN ENTIRE
MOUNTAIN
COLLAPSES,
BLANKETING THE
REGION IN
SMOKE.



LOCAL GROUPS
FIRST BLAMED A
COAL MINE FIRE
THAT HAS BEEN
BURNING FOR
DECADES...

...BUT WE
ARE NOW HEARING
REPORTS OF A SUPERHUMAN
RESEMBLING A FORMER
AVENGER, THE
HULK.



THE
AVENGERS
HAVE NOT YET
CONFIRMED HULK'S
INVOLVEMENT, OR
IF IT IS IN FACT
DR. BRUCE
BANNER.



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE CATASTROPHE,
SUPERHUMAN-RELATED INCIDENTS
HAVE RISEN SHARPLY
ACROSS THE GLOBE...



"PREPARE"?
WHAT'S ANYBODY
SUPPOSED TO DO
AGAINST SOMETHIN'
LIKE THAT?

WHY ARE
ALL THE BIGGEST,
STRONGEST ONES
ALWAYS THE
WORST
ONES?

...AND THE
OCCULT COMMUNITY
IS CALLING FOR SOCIETY
TO PREPARE FOR A
MODERN "AGE OF
MONSTERS."



WHY CAN'T
WE EVER GET A
MONSTER WHO'S
ON OUR
SIDE?

**NEXT:
ATLANTIS IN THE
AGE OF MONSTERS**

THE REMEMBRANCES OF ELDEST GOLOGOLTHIA, THE LIVING CITY

The new Age of Monsters has begun. And as before, Gologolthia is our Sanctuary.

When the One Above All created the Earth, He created also the DEMIURGE to seed it with life. As with all worlds, that life was conceived by the One Above All's design. But with the coming of the Mother of Horrors, life on Earth began to change, and many creatures took on forms the One Above All did not intend.

One of the few uncorrupted was the god-strumpet Gaea, and beloved by her was the VOLANTINE CHOIR: a race of winged, brightly colored creatures that nested in trees and spoke in song. The sunlit forests in which the Volantine dwelled grew so tall that they seemed to reach the stars, and many of the Volantine lived out their long lives without ever touching the soil.

Then came Vinruviel, the Mother of Horrors. She blessed the Volantine with her corruptive seed, and though they kept their gift of flight, they became diggers also, long of claw and fang. They devoured the great trees until the forests lay dead and barren, and from the roots they dug a vast colony of tunnels and burrows. From their own bones and viscera, they built remarkable structures, and the colony of the Volantine Choir became the first city on Earth.

Though the Volantine were clever creatures, they were small and slight also, and so the Mother of Horrors chose one of their number to protect them. This one she blessed with great size and strength and commanded him to protect his kin and the city they had built. This one, she named GOLOGOLTHIA, which meant "keeper of my children," and he perched above the city with his wings ever spread wide, for the Volantine now favored shadow.

As the monsters of Earth claimed dominion over it, the One Above All at last took notice. By His command, the Demiurge and Gaea mated to create the DEMOGORGE, and with its coming the first Great Culling began. One by one, the many wonders Mother had created were consumed by the Demogorge, until at last, it came for the Volantine Choir.

As the Demogorge descended upon the Volantine, he was met in the skies by Gologolthia. Though Gologolthia's strength was legend, he was no match for the terrible Demogorge, and he suffered many grievous

wounds. For a night and a day, his blood fell to the city like rain, until at last the Demogorge struck Gologolthia dead, and like a stone, he fell from the sky.

With Gologolthia dead, the Demogorge turned to the city of the Volantine...but found it empty. Their protector's sacrifice had given them time to dig, to escape the wrath of the Demogorge. Enraged, the Demogorge broke apart the Earth searching for the Volantine Choir, but they had dug deeper than even the Demogorge could go. In his rage, he rent apart his enemy's corpse, drenching the deserted city in Gologolthia's blood until naught remained.

When the Demogorge had gone and night had fallen, the Volantine emerged from their tunnels and found their city destroyed. But the Mother of Horrors had commanded Gologolthia to protect his kind, and death did not free Gologolthia from her command. As Gologolthia's blood seeped into the soil and stone and fallen structures, new towers of flesh and sinew rose from the Earth to replace the old. By Gologolthia's sacrifice had the Volantine survived the Great Culling, and his flesh became their living sanctuary.

Many times, servants of the One Above All would return to lay waste to the Living City of the Volantine Choir. Each time the city rose anew, and it became home to not just the Volantine, but to all Mother Vinruviel's children. Aeons later, when I sacked Nineveh and made it my capital, the blood and spirit of Gologolthia imbued every stone, watching over us.

Whenever the monsters of Earth need sanctuary, the living city will rise. And when the human cattle grow desperate enough to come for us, they will find mighty Gologolthia waiting.



NEXT

THE INFERNAL HULK

#2



BY PHILLIP KENNEDY JOHNSON, NIC KLEIN AND MATTHEW WILSON

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